

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 493

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Mr. Clifford L. Peters for his venerable and astute service as Chief of the Stoney Creek Volunteer Fire Department and congratulate him upon his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to honor those outstanding public servants who have dedicated their lives to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Clifford L. Peters is one such estimable person who served with integrity and probity for 31 years as Chief of the Stoney Creek Volunteer Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of the Stoney Creek community, Clifford L. Peters' impeccable career stemmed from his tremendous love for public service and his community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Peters' determination to contribute to his community served as motivation to perform his duties in a manner beyond reproach; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure as Chief of the Stoney Creek Volunteer Fire Department, Mr. Peters distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to the Stoney Creek community and all of Carter County; and

WHEREAS, after the tragic destruction of the Stoney Creek Baptist Church in 1970, Mr. Peters was unanimously chosen, by a board of twenty-one churches in the Stoney Creek Area, to create and lead the Stoney Creek Volunteer Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Peters was an integral part of the construction of a new fire hall for the community, the acquisition of a fire truck, and the training and organization of an outstanding and efficient volunteer fire-fighting team; and

WHEREAS, the inspired guidance of Clifford L. Peters has allowed the Stoney Creek Fire Department to expand protection into the Hunter Community, and to acquire four pumpers, three tankers, and other technical equipment to ensure the safety of the homes, property, and lives of the people of Stoney Creek; and

WHEREAS, Clifford L. Peters did not limit his service to Stoney Creek community, but shared his unequalled leadership and organizational abilities with other communities through the establishment of the Carter County Fire Department Association; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Peters effectively utilized this organization to greatly improve communications and to facilitate the sharing of infrastructure among all county fire departments, the Carter County Rescue Squad and local law enforcement groups; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Peters' incredible foresight inspired him to establish an emergency medical "quick response" team to offer limited medical support in emergency situations until more qualified technicians arrived. Mr. Peters was recognized by Carter County for his great vision and service in the renaming of Station One to "Clifford L. Peters Station" in his honor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Peters demonstrated his love for people through volunteer service after the Roan Mountain and Hampton flood of 1998, providing assistance in rescue efforts, humanitarian aid, and moral support to those individuals and families affected by the flood; and

WHEREAS, Clifford L. Peters continued to utilize his gift of public service by aiding those adversely affected by the winter snows later that year; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Peters, being acutely aware of the needs of others, has frequently aided his friends and neighbors, asking for nothing in return; he has been instrumental in the restoration and maintenance of all the cemeteries in the Stoney Creek community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Peters' remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his unwavering reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, the time-honored values of family and community were instilled in him by his parents, Buster and Maggie Pearl Peters, through community service and other activities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Peters evidences these strong ties to community and family through his continuation of the yearly "Peters' Hollow Egg Fight," a tradition begun by his grandparents 178 years ago; and

WHEREAS, Clifford L. Peters, his many accomplishments aside, is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his wife, Dessie Dunkin Peters; and

WHEREAS, he is the loving and devoted father of two daughters, Christy Peters Poole and Cindy Peters Sturgill; and the caring grandfather of Ethan and Chase Sturgill and Matthew Poole; and

WHEREAS, Clifford L. Peters is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people who life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant and reliable neighbor and friend to all; and

WHEREAS, Clifford L. Peters is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be recognized now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Clifford L. Peters for his venerable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee as Chief of the Stoney Creek Volunteer Fire

Department, congratulate him upon the occasion of his retirement, and wish him well in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.